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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTEL CORPORATION [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US).
- (72) Inventor: **SHAO, Lei**; 2579 Los Coches Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128 (US).
- (74) Agents: **STEFFEY, Charles, E.** et al.; Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A., P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (US).
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(54) Title: MULTIPLE ANTENNA SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING HIGH-THROUGHPUT SPACE-FREQUENCY BLOCK CODES

(57) Abstract: A multicarrier transmitter uses high-throughput space-frequency block codes to map transmit symbols to a particular transmit antenna and a particular subcarrier of a multicarrier communication channel.

MULTIPLE ANTENNA SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING HIGH-THROUGHPUT SPACE-FREQUENCY BLOCK CODES

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

5 This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/503,092, filed September 15, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Technical Field

10 Embodiments of the present invention pertain to wireless communications, and in some embodiments, to multicarrier communication systems.

Background

15 To increase the data rate and/or throughput of wireless communications, wireless signals may be transmitted using more than one transmit antenna over more than one spatial channel utilizing the same frequency subcarriers. These systems are sometimes referred to multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) systems and may exploit the multipath diversity between the antennas. Conventional MIMO systems may encode the signals using convolutional encoding and/or Viterbi encoding, however these techniques are
20 sensitive to antenna separation and antenna fading correlation.

 Thus there are general needs for apparatus and methods for increasing the data rate and/or throughput of wireless communications.

Brief Description of the Drawings

25 The appended claims are directed to some of the various embodiments of the present invention. However, the detailed description presents a more complete understanding of embodiments of the present invention when considered in connection with the figures, wherein like reference numbers refer to similar items throughout the figures and:

30 FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a multicarrier transmitter in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention;

 FIG. 2 illustrates precoded symbol vectors in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates space-frequency mapping in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a multicarrier receiver in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a space-frequency symbol transmission procedure in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a symbol reception and decoding procedure in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention.

10 Detailed Description

The following description and the drawings illustrate specific embodiments of the invention sufficiently to enable those skilled in the art to practice them. Other embodiments may incorporate structural, logical, electrical, process, and other changes. Examples merely typify possible variations. Individual components and functions are optional unless explicitly required, and the sequence of operations may vary. Portions and features of some embodiments may be included in or substituted for those of others. The scope of embodiments of the invention encompasses the full ambit of the claims and all available equivalents of those claims. Such embodiments of the invention may be referred to, individually or collectively, herein by the term “invention” merely for convenience and without intending to voluntarily limit the scope of this application to any single invention or inventive concept if more than one is in fact disclosed.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a multicarrier transmitter in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. Multicarrier transmitter 100 may be part of a wireless communication device, and may transmit multicarrier communication signals, such as orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) communication signals, over a multicarrier communication channel.

In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 encodes symbols for transmission on a multicarrier communication channel comprising more than one spatial channel and may use more than one of transmit antennas 114. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 uses high-throughput space-frequency block codes and may not require the use of convolutional or error-correcting coding, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, the use of high-throughput space-frequency block codes by multicarrier transmitter 100 may eliminate the

need for Viterbi decoding, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, increased throughput and/or increased range may be achieved through the use of high-throughput space-frequency block codes over systems using convolutional codes with similar bit-error rates and bandwidths.

5 In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may comprise precoder 106 to encode a plurality of symbol vectors 105 by multiplying each symbol vector 105 by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors 107. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may comprise partitioner 108 to group precoded symbol
10 vectors 107 into a plurality of groups 109. Each group 109 may more than one of precoded symbol vectors 107. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may also comprise space-frequency symbol mapper 110 to map each precoded symbol of the precoded symbol vectors 107 to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels. In some
15 embodiments, space-frequency symbol mapper 110 may map precoded symbols to one of the subcarriers and to one of the spatial channels at least in part based on the symbol's group and the symbol's position within the group, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, space-frequency symbol mapper 110 may map precoded symbols to one of the subcarriers and to one of transmit antennas 114 based at least in part
20 based on the symbol's group and the symbol's position within the group, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In these embodiments, each of transmit antennas 114 may be associated with one of the spatial channels, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may further comprise symbol
25 mapper 102 to generate a serial symbol stream of symbols 103 from an input serial bit stream 101. In some embodiments, mapper 102 may be quadrature amplitude modulated (QAM) symbol mapper to generate a serial symbol stream of QAM symbols, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may further comprise serial-to-parallel converter 104 to generate the
30 plurality of parallel symbol vectors 105 from the serial symbol stream. Each of symbol vectors 105 may have more than one symbol. In some embodiments, parallel symbol vectors 105 may be QAM symbol vectors.

In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may further comprise inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) circuitry 112 to generate signals 113 for RF transmission on a corresponding one of the spatial channels or a corresponding one of transmit antennas 114 from space-frequency mapped symbols 111 provided by space-frequency symbol mapper 110. In some embodiments, signals 113 may be packetized signals for transmission. In some embodiments, circuitry may be included in the signal path after IFFT circuitry 112 to add a cyclic prefix (CP) to signals 113 to help reduce inter-symbol interference, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, each of transmit antennas 114 may correspond to one of the spatial channels, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, precoder 106 may be a linear-square precoder and may separately precode each of parallel symbol vectors 105 to generate a plurality of parallel precoded symbol vectors 107. In some embodiments, the complex field matrix (e.g., theta) used by precoder 106 may be a square complex field matrix having a substantially row-wise Vandermonde structure, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. A Vandermonde matrix may refer to a type of matrix that arises in the polynomial least squares fitting of Lagrange interpolating polynomials and the reconstruction of a statistical distribution from the distribution's moments, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, precoder 106 may encode an $M \times G$ number of parallel symbol vectors 105, and each parallel symbol vector 105 may have $M \times K$ symbols. In these embodiments, partitioner 108 may group precoded symbol vectors 107 into G groups 109 of the parallel symbol vectors 107. Each of groups 109 may have M of the precoded symbol vectors 107. In these embodiments, M , G and K may be selected to satisfy the equation $N_c = M \times K \times G$, in which N_c may refer to the number of data subcarriers of the multicarrier channel. M , G and K may be positive integers less than 100, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, M may correspond to a number of spatial channels and/or transmit antennas 114. For example, when the multicarrier communication channel comprises sixteen data subcarriers and the transmitter uses four transmit antennas, M may be four, G may be two and K may be two. The total number of symbols transmitted may be the number of symbols per symbol vector (i.e., $M \times K$) times the number of vectors (i.e., $M \times G$) which would be 64 symbols. Sixteen symbols (i.e., one for each of the sixteen data subcarriers)

may be modulated by each of IFFT circuitry 112 and transmitted by a corresponding one of transmit antennas 114. In embodiments, K and G may be selected based on the number of subcarriers and the number of antennas, among other things.

FIG. 2 illustrates precoded symbol vectors in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the symbols of precoded symbol vectors 207 may be associated with a layer of symbols. Precoded symbol vectors 207 may correspond to precoded symbol vectors 107 (FIG. 1), although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. Precoded symbol vectors 207 may be grouped into two or more groups 209. Each precoded symbol vector 207 may comprise a plurality of precoded symbols 203. In some embodiments, there may be M layers for each of G groups. In some embodiments, the number of layers M may at most be no more than the number of transmit antennas. In these embodiments, a space-frequency symbol mapper, such as space-frequency symbol mapper 110 (FIG. 1), may map each precoded symbol 203 of the precoded symbol vectors 207 to one of the subcarriers and to one of the transmit antennas based on the group and the layer associated with the symbol. In these embodiments, space-frequency symbol mapper 110 (FIG. 1) may map $M \times K \times G$ symbols to each transmit antenna and/or spatial channel and may provide the mapped symbols in multiples of the $M \times K \times G$ symbols to IFFT circuitry, such as IFFT circuitry 112 (FIG. 1), associated with the transmit antennas for modulation on the subcarriers. FIG. 2 illustrates embodiments of the present invention which include four layers for each of the two groups (i.e., groups 109) of precoded symbol vectors 207 in which each of precoded symbol vectors 207 comprises eight of precoded symbols 203. In this illustrated example, there may be sixteen data subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, space-frequency symbol mapper 110 (FIG. 1) may map at least some precoded symbols 203 of the layers to the subcarriers and the transmit antennas in a sequential manner based on the precoded symbol's group and position within the group, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, a first precoded symbol of a first group may be mapped to a first subcarrier and first transmit antenna, a second precoded symbol of the first group may be mapped to a second subcarrier and a second transmit antenna, etc. The specific mapping may be selected to achieve, among other things, increased diversity.

FIG. 3 illustrates space-frequency mapping in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. Precoded symbols 303 may be mapped to one of transmit antennas 114 (FIG. 1) or spatial channels 302 (illustrated in rows) and to one of subcarriers 304 (illustrated in columns) based on the precoded symbol's layer and group.

5 In FIG. 3, precoded symbols 303 may correspond to precoded symbols 203 (FIG. 2) and are illustrated as s_{ijk} , in which i represents the i^{th} layer, j represents the group number and k represents the k^{th} precoded symbol. In the example illustrated having sixteen data subcarriers, precoded symbols 303 of the first group may be mapped to subcarriers one through four and subcarriers nine through twelve, while precoded symbols 303 of the
10 second group may be mapped to subcarriers five through eight and subcarriers thirteen through sixteen.

In some embodiments, precoded symbols 303 of a particular layer may be mapped diagonally in this illustration. For example, for symbols of the first group, first symbol 306 of the first layer may be mapped to the first subcarrier and the first transmit antenna,
15 second symbol 308 of the first layer may be mapped to the second subcarrier and the second transmit antenna, third symbol 310 of the first layer may be mapped to the third subcarrier and the third transmit antenna, fourth symbol 312 of the first layer may be mapped to the fourth subcarrier and the fourth transmit antenna, fifth symbol 314 of the first layer may be mapped to the ninth subcarrier and the first transmit antenna, sixth
20 symbol 316 of the first layer may be mapped to the tenth subcarrier and the second transmit antenna, seventh symbol 318 of the first layer may be mapped to the eleventh subcarrier and the third transmit antenna, and eighth symbol 310 of the first layer may be mapped to the twelfth subcarrier and the fourth transmit antenna. This mapping may be similarly applied to the other layers and the other groups as illustrated in FIG. 3. Other
25 mappings based on layers and groups may also be performed by space-frequency symbol mapper 110 (FIG. 1).

Referring to FIG. 1, in some embodiments, the spatial channels may be correlated (e.g., non-orthogonal in frequency) channels. In these embodiments, each spatial channel may employ the same frequency symbol-modulated subcarriers. In some embodiments,
30 uncorrelation (e.g., at least partial orthogonality) between the spatial channels may be achieved through antenna separation. In some embodiments, transmit antennas 114 may have a spacing therebetween of at least approximately a half-wavelength of a transmit frequency. In some embodiments, the spacing may be selected so that the different

antennas undergo uncorrelated channel fading. In some embodiments, the high-throughput space-frequency block codes employed by multicarrier transceiver 100 may not be sensitive to small antenna spacing or separations, and may be robust to antenna fading correlations. In some embodiments, the antenna separation may be small relative to the wavelength of transmission. In some embodiments, uncorrelation between the spatial channels may be achieved through beamforming, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

Is some embodiments, the multicarrier communication channel may comprise a plurality of symbol-modulated subcarriers. In some embodiments, each symbol-modulated subcarrier may have a null at substantially a center frequency of the other subcarriers to achieve substantial orthogonality between the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel. In some embodiments, the multicarrier communication channel may be an orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) communication channel comprising a plurality of OFDM subcarriers, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may utilize more than one of spatially-diverse transmit antennas 114 to "divide" the channel into one or more spatial channels. In some embodiments, each transmit antenna may define one spatial transmit channel. In other embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 may employ beamforming techniques to "divide" the channel into spatial channels. In these embodiments, each spatial channel may be used to communicate separate or independent data streams on the same subcarriers as the other spatial channels, allowing the communication of additional data without an increase in frequency bandwidth. The use of spatial channels may take advantage of the multipath characteristics of the channel. In some embodiments, the spatial channels may be non-orthogonal channels, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, serial-to-parallel converter 104 may operate in the signal path prior to mapper 102. In accordance with some embodiments, mapper 102 of multicarrier transmitter 100 may symbol-modulate the subcarriers in accordance with individual subcarrier modulation assignments. This may be referred to as adaptive bit loading (ABL). Accordingly, one or more bits may be represented by a symbol modulated on a subcarrier. The modulation assignments for the individual subchannel may be based on the channel characteristics or channel conditions for that subcarrier, although the scope

of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, the subcarrier modulation assignments may range from zero bits per symbol to up to ten or more bits per symbol.

5 In some embodiments, a multicarrier symbol may be viewed as the combination of the symbols modulated on the individual subcarriers. Because of the variable number of bits per symbol-modulated subcarrier and the variable number of subchannels that may comprise a multicarrier channel, the number of bits per multicarrier symbol may vary greatly.

10 In some embodiments, the frequency spectrums for a multicarrier communication channel may comprise subcarriers in either a 5 GHz frequency spectrum or a 2.4 GHz frequency spectrum. In these embodiments, the 5 GHz frequency spectrum may include frequencies ranging from approximately 4.9 to 5.9 GHz, and the 2.4 GHz spectrum may include frequencies ranging from approximately 2.3 to 2.5 GHz, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect, as other frequency spectrums are also equally
15 suitable.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a multicarrier receiver in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. Multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of a wireless communication device, and may receive multicarrier communication signals, such as OFDM communication signals, over a multicarrier communication channel. In some
20 embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of a communication station which may also comprise a multicarrier transmitter, such as multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1), although other multicarrier transmitters may also be suitable.

In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may receive signals over a multicarrier communication channel over more than one spatial channel and may use more
25 than one of receive antennas 402. In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 decodes signals that may have been encoded with high-throughput space-frequency block codes and may not require the use convolutional or error-correcting decoding, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, the use of high-throughput space-frequency block codes may eliminate the need for Viterbi
30 decoding, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, increased throughput and/or increased range may be achieved through the use of high-throughput space-frequency block codes over systems using convolutional codes with similar bit-error rates and bandwidths. In some embodiments, multicarrier

receiver 400 decodes signals received over a multicarrier communication channel encoded with high-throughput space-frequency block codes using an iterative nulling process to successively cancel interference from layers of the symbols.

In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may comprise demultiplexer 406 to generate groups of symbol vectors 407 by combining corresponding subcarrier frequency components of received symbol vectors 405. Each group of symbol vectors 407 may have symbol components combined from different subcarriers. In some embodiments, symbol vectors 407 may be generated by demultiplexer 406 in G groups (two groups are illustrated in FIG. 4). In some embodiments, each of symbol vectors 407 may have a length of $M \times K$ encoded symbols. In some embodiments, demultiplexer 406 may reshape row vectors into column vectors to collect and group information from some subcarriers received on all receive antennas 402, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

Multicarrier receiver 400 may also comprise null canceller 408 associated with each group of symbol vectors 407 to perform null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of the associated group based on a decoded symbol vector 420. Null canceller 408 may generate null-cancelled symbol vectors 409.

Multicarrier receiver 400 may also comprise decoder 410 associated with each group to decode null-cancelled symbol vectors 409. In some embodiments, decoder 410 may be a sphere decoder to spherically decode layers of symbols of the associated group and to multiply an output of decoder 410 (one decoded layer at a time) by a complex-field matrix, which may be referred to as θ . In this way, decoder 410 may regenerate precoded symbol vector 420 (e.g., to regenerate the current layer) for null canceller 408 so that null canceller 408 may cancel the current layer's contribution from symbol vectors 407 until all layers are decoded. In some embodiments, nulling may be done once for each subcarrier while canceling may be done for $M-1$ iterations until all layers are decoded, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, decoder 410 may perform maximum-likelihood (ML) detection within a sphere or spherical limit, unlike an exhaustive ML detection. In some embodiments, decoder 410 may generate decoded QAM symbol vectors 411 for each subcarrier of the multicarrier communication channel.

In some embodiments, null canceller 408 may null symbols so that the i^{th} layer may still have interference from the first layer through the $i^{\text{th}}-1$ layer, and substantially no

interference from the $i^{\text{th}}+1$ layer to the M^{th} layer within a symbol vector for a specific subcarrier frequency, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, null canceller 408 may also cancel some elements in symbol vectors 407 after nulling based on symbol vector 420. This may be performed successively until
5 all layers are decoded. In some embodiments, this may be an iterative process. For example, during a first iteration, nothing may be cancelled so the decoded symbol vector 420 fed back may be zero.

In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may also comprise FFT circuitry 404 to demodulate subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel received
10 through receive antennas 402 to generate the received symbol vectors 405 associated with each receive antenna. Received symbol vectors 405 (i.e., from each antenna 402) may include symbol components from each of the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel. In some embodiments, the number of receive antennas 402 may be greater than or equal to the number of transmit antennas or spatial channels used in
15 transmitting the multicarrier communication signal, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may also comprise symbol demapper 412 to demap the decoded symbol vectors 111 for each group to generate a plurality of parallel sets of bits 413. Symbol demapper 412 may be QAM demapper,
20 although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, multicarrier receiver 400 may also comprise parallel-to-serial converter 414 to generate serial bit stream 415 from the plurality of parallel sets of bits 413.

In some embodiments, circuitry (not illustrated) may be included in the signal path before FFT circuitry 404 to remove a cyclic prefix (CP) added by the transmitter to help
25 reduce inter-symbol interference, although the scope of the present invention is not limited in this respect.

Multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of a personal digital assistant (PDA), a laptop or portable computer with wireless communication capability, a web tablet, a wireless telephone, a wireless headset, a pager,
30 an instant messaging device, a digital camera, an access point or other device that may receive and/or transmit information wirelessly. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) may transmit and multicarrier receiver 400 may receive radio-frequency (RF) communications in accordance with specific communication standards,

such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standards including IEEE 802.11(a), 802.11(b), 802.11(g/h) and/or 802.11(n) standards for wireless local area networks (WLANs) and/or 802.16 standards for wireless metropolitan area networks (WMANs), although transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or receiver 400 may also be suitable to
5 transmit and/or receive communications in accordance with other techniques including the Digital Video Broadcasting Terrestrial (DVB-T) broadcasting standard, and the High performance radio Local Area Network (HiperLAN) standard.

Although some embodiments of the present invention are discussed in the exemplary context of an 802.11x implementation (e.g., 802.11a, 802.11g, 802.11 HT,
10 etc.), the claims are not so limited. Some embodiments of the present invention may be implemented as part of any wireless system using multicarrier wireless communication channels (e.g., orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM), discrete multi-tone modulation (DMT), etc.), such as may be used within, without limitation, a wireless
15 personal area network (WPAN), a wireless local area network (WLAN), a wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN), a wireless wide area network (WWAN), a cellular network, a third generation (3G) network, a fourth generation (4G) network, a universal mobile telephone system (UMTS), and the like communication systems.

In some embodiments, each of transmit antennas 114 (FIG. 1) and each of receive antennas 402 may comprise a directional or omnidirectional antenna, including, for
20 example, a dipole antenna, a monopole antenna, a loop antenna, a microstrip antenna or other type of antenna suitable for reception and/or transmission of RF signals.

In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of a single multicarrier communication station. Although multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 are illustrated as part
25 of one or more wireless communication devices, multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of almost any wireless or wireline communication device, including a general purpose processing or computing system. In some embodiments, multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 may be part of a battery-powered device. In some embodiments, when transmitter 100
30 (FIG. 1) and receiver 400 are part of a communication station, transmit and receive antennas may be shared, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

Although multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) and/or multicarrier receiver 400 are illustrated as having several separate functional elements, one or more of the functional

elements may be combined and may be implemented by combinations of software-configured elements, such as processing elements including digital signal processors (DSPs), and/or other hardware elements. For example, the illustrated elements may comprise one or more microprocessors, DSPs, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), and combinations of various hardware and logic circuitry for performing at least the functions described herein.

Unless specifically stated otherwise, terms such as processing, computing, calculating, determining, displaying, or the like, may refer to an action and/or process of one or more processing or computing systems or similar devices that may manipulate and transform data represented as physical (e.g., electronic) quantities within a processing system's registers and memory into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the processing system's registers or memories, or other such information storage, transmission or display devices. Furthermore, as used herein, computing device includes one or more processing elements coupled with computer-readable memory that may be volatile or non-volatile memory or a combination thereof.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a space-frequency symbol transmission procedure in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. Space-frequency symbol transmission procedure 500 may be performed by a multicarrier transmitter, such as multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1), although other multicarrier transmitters may also be suitable. In some embodiments, procedure 500 may encode symbols for transmission over a multicarrier communication channel comprising more than one spatial channel and may use more than one transmit antenna.

Operation 502 comprises generating a serial symbol stream from an input serial bit stream. In some embodiments, operation 502 may be performed by a symbol mapper, such as mapper 102 (FIG. 1).

Operation 504 comprises generating a plurality of parallel symbol vectors from the serial symbol stream. Each of the symbol vectors may have more than one symbol. In some embodiments, operation 504 may be performed by a serial-to-parallel converter, such as serial-to-parallel converter 104 (FIG. 1).

Operation 506 comprises encoding the plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors. In some embodiments, operation 506 comprises encoding the symbol vectors with a linear-square precoder to separately precode each of the plurality of parallel symbol

vectors to generate a plurality of parallel precoded symbol vectors. In some embodiments, the complex field matrix may be a square complex field matrix having substantially a row-wise Vandermonde structure, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, operation 506 may be performed by a precoder, such as precoder 106 (FIG. 1).

Operation 508 comprises grouping the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups. Each group may have more than one of the precoded symbol vectors. In some embodiments, operation 508 may be performed by a partitioner, such as partitioner 108 (FIG. 1).

Operation 510 comprises mapping precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group. In some embodiments, operation 510 may comprise mapping the precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of transmit antennas. Each transmit antenna may correspond to one of the spatial channels, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, operation 510 may be performed by a space-frequency symbol mapper, such as space-frequency symbol mapper 110 (FIG. 1).

Operation 512 comprises performing an inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) to generate modulated signals for RF transmission on a corresponding one of the spatial channels from space-frequency mapped symbols generated in operation 510.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a symbol reception and decoding procedure in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. Symbol reception and decoding procedure 600 may be performed by a multicarrier receiver, such as multicarrier receiver 400 (FIG. 4), although other multicarrier receivers may also be suitable. Procedure 600 may be performed to decode signals that were transmitted by a multicarrier transmitter, such as multicarrier transmitter 100 (FIG. 1) or to decode multicarrier signals that were generated by procedure 500 (FIG. 5), although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect.

Operation 604 comprises demodulating subcarriers of the multicarrier communication signal received over a plurality of receive antennas to generate the received symbol vectors associated with each receive antenna. In some embodiments, the

received symbol vectors may include symbol components from each of the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel. In some embodiments, operation 604 may be performed by FFT circuitry, such as FFT circuitries 404 (FIG. 4).

5 Operation 606 comprises generating groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding subcarrier frequency components of the received symbol vectors. In some embodiments, operation 606 comprises reshaping and/or demultiplexing the symbol vectors. In some embodiments, each group of symbol vectors may comprise symbol components combined from different subcarriers. In some embodiments, operation 606 may be performed by a demultiplexer, such as demultiplexer 406 (FIG. 4).

10 Operation 608 comprises performing null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of an associated group based on a decoded symbol vector to generate null-cancelled symbol vectors. In some embodiments, operation 608 may iteratively cancel interference from the symbol vectors in successive layers. In some embodiments, null canceller may null interference from symbol vectors 407 (FIG. 4) so that the i^{th} layer may
15 still have interference from first to the $i^{\text{th}}-1$ layer, and may have substantially no interference from the $i^{\text{th}}+1$ layer to the M^{th} layer, although the scope of the invention is not limited in this respect. In some embodiments, operation 608 may be performed by null cancellers, such as null cancellers 408 (FIG. 4).

20 Operation 610 comprises decoding layers of symbols of the associated group by multiplying a decoded output one layer at a time by a complex-field matrix to regenerate symbol vectors for performing the null canceling. In some embodiments, operation 610 may be performed by decoders, such as decoders 410 (FIG. 4). In some embodiments, operation 610 comprises spherically decoding to generate decoded QAM symbol vectors for each subcarrier of the multicarrier communication channel, although the scope of the
25 invention is not limited in this respect.

Operation 612 comprises demapping the decoded symbol vectors for each group to generate a plurality of parallel sets of bits. Operation 612 may be performed by a symbol demapper, such as demapper 412 (FIG. 4).

30 Operation 614 comprises generating a serial bit stream from the plurality of parallel sets of bits. In some embodiments, operation 614 may be performed by a parallel-to-serial converter, such as parallel-to-serial converter 414 (FIG. 4).

Although the individual operations of procedures 500 and 600 are illustrated and described as separate operations, one or more of the individual operations may be

performed concurrently, and nothing requires that the operations be performed in the order illustrated.

Embodiments of the invention may be implemented in one or a combination of hardware, firmware and software. Embodiments of the invention may also be implemented as instructions stored on a machine-readable medium, which may be read and executed by at least one processor to perform the operations described herein. A machine-readable medium may include any mechanism for storing or transmitting information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). For example, a machine-readable medium may include read-only memory (ROM), random-access memory (RAM), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash-memory devices, electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.), and others.

The Abstract is provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.72(b) requiring an abstract that will allow the reader to ascertain the nature and gist of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to limit or interpret the scope or meaning of the claims.

In the foregoing detailed description, various features are occasionally grouped together in a single embodiment for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This method of disclosure is not to be interpreted as reflecting an intention that the claimed embodiments of the subject matter require more features than are expressly recited in each claim. Rather, as the following claims reflect, invention lies in less than all features of a single disclosed embodiment. Thus the following claims are hereby incorporated into the detailed description, with each claim standing on its own as a separate preferred embodiment.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A multicarrier transmitter comprising:
 a precoder to encode a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the
symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;
 a partitioner to group the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each
group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and
10 a space-frequency symbol mapper to map precoded symbols of the precoded
symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication
channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded
symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.
2. The transmitter of claim 1 further comprising:
15 a symbol mapper to generate a serial symbol stream from an input serial bit stream;
and
 a serial-to-parallel converter to generate the plurality of parallel symbol vectors
from the serial symbol stream, each of the symbol vectors having more than one symbol.
3. The transmitter of claim 2 further comprising inverse fast Fourier transform
20 (FFT) circuitry to generate signals for radio-frequency (RF) transmission on a
corresponding one of the spatial channels from space-frequency mapped symbols provided
by space-frequency symbol mapper.
4. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the precoder is a linear-square precoder to
separately precode each of the plurality of parallel symbol vectors to generate a plurality
25 of parallel precoded symbol vectors.
5. The transmitter of claim 4 wherein the complex field matrix is a square complex
field matrix having substantially a row-wise Vandermonde structure.

6. The transmitter of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of transmit antennas, each transmit antenna corresponding to one of the spatial channels.

7. The transmitter of claim 6 wherein the precoder encodes an $M \times G$ number of parallel symbol vectors, each parallel symbol vector having $M \times K$ symbols,

5 wherein the partitioner groups the precoded symbol vectors into G groups of the parallel symbol vectors, each group having M of the precoded symbol vectors, wherein M , G and K are positive integers, wherein $M \times K \times G$ is equal to a number of data subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel, and

10 wherein M corresponds to a number of the transmit antennas.

8. The transmitter of claim 7 wherein symbols of the precoded symbol vectors are associated with a layer of symbols, wherein a number of layers is M for each group,

 wherein the space-frequency symbol mapper maps each precoded symbol of the precoded symbol vectors to one of the subcarriers and to one of the transmit antennas
15 based on the group and the layer associated with the symbol, and wherein the space-frequency symbol mapper maps $M \times K \times G$ symbols to each transmit antenna and provides the mapped symbols in multiples of the $M \times K \times G$ symbols to IFFT circuitry associated with the transmit antennas for modulation on the subcarriers.

9. The transmitter of claim 7 wherein the space-frequency symbol mapper maps at
20 least some symbols of the layers to the subcarriers and the transmit antennas in a sequential manner based on the symbols group and position within the group.

10. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the multicarrier communication channel comprises the plurality of spatial channels, each spatial channel associated with one of the plurality of transmit antennas,

25 wherein each spatial channel employs the same frequency subcarriers as the other spatial channels,

 wherein the transmit antennas have a spacing therebetween of at least approximately a half-wavelength of a transmit frequency.

11. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the multicarrier communication channel comprises a plurality of symbol-modulated subcarriers, and
wherein each symbol-modulated subcarrier has a null at substantially a center frequency of the other subcarriers to achieve substantial orthogonality between the
5 subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel.

12. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the transmitter is part of a multicarrier communication station comprising the multicarrier transmitter and a multicarrier receiver, wherein the multicarrier receiver comprises:

a demultiplexer to generate groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding
10 subcarrier frequency components of received symbol vectors;

a null canceller associated with each group of symbol vectors to perform null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of the associated group based on a decoded symbol vector, the null canceller to generate null-cancelled symbol vectors;

a decoder associated with each group to decode layers of symbols of the associated
15 group and multiply an output of the decoder one layer at a time by a complex-field matrix to regenerate symbol vectors for the null canceller.

13. A multicarrier receiver comprising:

a demultiplexer to generate groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding
subcarrier frequency components of received symbol vectors;

20 a null canceller associated with each group of symbol vectors to perform null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of the associated group based on a decoded symbol vector, the null canceller to generate null-cancelled symbol vectors;

a decoder associated with each group to decode layers of symbols of the associated
group and multiply an output of the decoder one layer at a time by a complex-field matrix
25 to regenerate symbol vectors for the null canceller.

14. The receiver of claim 13 wherein the null canceller iteratively cancels interference from the symbol vectors in successive layers.

15. The receiver of claim 13 wherein each group of symbol vectors generated by the demultiplexer comprises symbol components combined from different subcarriers, and

wherein the decoder is a sphere decoder and generates decoded quadrature amplitude modulated symbol vectors for each subcarrier of the multicarrier communication channel.

16. The receiver of claim 13 further comprising:

- 5 FFT circuitry to demodulate received subcarriers of the multicarrier communication signal received over a plurality of receive antennas to generate the received symbol vectors associated with each receive antenna, the received symbol vectors comprising symbol components from a plurality of subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel;
- 10 a demapper to demap the decoded symbol vectors for each group to generate a plurality of parallel sets of bits; and
- a parallel to serial converter to generate a serial bit stream from the plurality of parallel sets of bits.

17. The receiver of claim 13 wherein the receiver is part of a multicarrier communication station comprising the multicarrier receiver and a multicarrier transmitter, wherein the multicarrier transmitter comprises:

- a precoder to encode a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;
- a partitioner to group the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each
- 20 group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and
- a space-frequency symbol mapper to map precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.

25 18. A communication station comprising:

- a plurality of antennas; and
- a multicarrier transmitter to encode symbols with space-frequency block codes for transmission over a multicarrier communication channel,

wherein the space-frequency block codes comprise precoded symbols mapped to the plurality of transmit antennas and to subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel.

19. The communication station of claim 18 wherein the multicarrier transmitter
5 comprises:

a precoder to encode a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;

a partitioner to group the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and

10 a space-frequency symbol mapper to map the precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.

20. The communication station of claim 18 further comprising a multicarrier
15 receiver, to decode signals received over the multicarrier communication channel encoded with the space-frequency block codes using an iterative nulling process to successively cancel interference from layers of symbols.

21. The communication station of claim 20 wherein the multicarrier receiver
comprises:

20 a demultiplexer to generate groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding subcarrier frequency components of received symbol vectors;

a null canceller associated with each group of symbol vectors to perform null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of the associated group based on a decoded symbol vector, the null canceller to generate null-cancelled symbol vectors;

25 a decoder associated with each group to decode layers of symbols of the associated group and multiply an output of the decoder one layer at a time by a complex-field matrix to regenerate symbol vectors for the null canceller.

22. A method of transmitting over a multicarrier communication channel
comprising:

encoding a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;

grouping the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and

- 5 mapping precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

- 10 generating a serial symbol stream from an input serial bit stream; and
generating the plurality of parallel symbol vectors from the serial symbol stream, each of the symbol vectors having more than one symbol.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising performing inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) to generate signals for radio-frequency (RF) transmission on a
15 corresponding one of the spatial channels from space-frequency mapped symbols generated by the mapping of the precoded symbols.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein encoding comprises encoding the symbol vectors with a linear-square precoder to separately precode each of the plurality of parallel symbol vectors to generate a plurality of parallel precoded symbol vectors.

- 20 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the complex field matrix is a square complex field matrix having substantially a row-wise Vandermonde structure.

27. The method of claim 22 wherein the mapping comprises mapping the precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of transmit antennas, wherein each
25 transmit antenna corresponds to one of the spatial channels.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the encoding comprises encoding an $M \times G$ number of parallel symbol vectors, each parallel symbol vector having $M \times K$ symbols,

wherein the grouping comprises grouping the precoded symbol vectors into G groups of the parallel symbol vectors, each group having M of the precoded symbol vectors,

wherein M, G and K are positive integers,

5 wherein $M \times K \times G$ is equal to a number of data subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel, and

wherein M corresponds to a number of the transmit antennas.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein symbols of the precoded symbol vectors are associated with a layer of symbols, wherein a number of layers is M for each group,

10 wherein the mapping further comprises mapping each precoded symbol of the precoded symbol vectors to one of the subcarriers and to one of the transmit antennas based on the group and the layer associated with the symbol, and

wherein the mapping further comprises mapping $M \times K \times G$ symbols to each transmit antenna and to provide the mapped symbols in multiples of the $M \times K \times G$ symbols for
15 modulation on the subcarriers.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the mapping comprises mapping at least some symbols of the layers to the subcarriers and the transmit antennas in a sequential manner based on the symbols group and position within the group.

31. The method of claim 22 wherein the multicarrier communication channel
20 comprises the plurality of spatial channels, each spatial channel associated with one of the plurality of transmit antennas,

wherein each spatial channel employs the same frequency subcarriers as the other spatial channels,

wherein the transmit antennas have a spacing therebetween of at least
25 approximately a half-wavelength of a transmit frequency.

32. The method of claim 22 wherein the multicarrier communication channel comprises a plurality of symbol-modulated subcarriers, and

wherein each symbol-modulated subcarrier has a null at substantially a center frequency of the other subcarriers to achieve substantial orthogonality between the subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel.

33. A method of receiving over a multicarrier communication channel comprising:
- 5 generating groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding subcarrier frequency components of received symbol vectors;
- performing null canceling on a per-subcarrier basis for symbol vectors of an associated group based on a decoded symbol vector to generate null-cancelled symbol vectors; and
- 10 decoding layers of symbols of the associated group by multiplying a decoded output one layer at a time by a complex-field matrix to regenerate symbol vectors for performing the null canceling.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein performing null canceling comprises iteratively cancelling interference from the symbol vectors in successive layers.

- 15 35. The method of claim 33 wherein each group of symbol vectors comprises symbol components combined from different subcarriers, and
- wherein decoding comprises spherically decoding to generate decoded quadrature amplitude modulated symbol vectors for each subcarrier of the multicarrier communication channel.

- 20 36. The method of claim 35 further comprising:
- demodulating received subcarriers of the multicarrier communication signal received over a plurality of receive antennas to generate the received symbol vectors associated with each receive antenna, the received symbol vectors comprising symbol components from a plurality of subcarriers of the multicarrier communication channel;
- 25 demapping the decoded symbol vectors for each group to generate a plurality of parallel sets of bits; and
- generating a serial bit stream from the plurality of parallel sets of bits.

37. A system comprising:

one or more substantially omnidirectional transmit antennas;

a multicarrier transmitter coupled to the transmit antennas, the multicarrier transmitter comprising:

5 a precoder to encode a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;

a partitioner to group the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and

a space-frequency symbol mapper to map precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.

38. The system of claim 37 wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a symbol mapper to generate a serial symbol stream from an input serial bit stream;

15 and

a serial-to-parallel converter to generate the plurality of parallel symbol vectors from the serial symbol stream, each of the symbol vectors having more than one symbol.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the transmitter further comprises inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) circuitry to generate signals for radio-frequency (RF)

20 transmission on a corresponding one of the spatial channels from space-frequency mapped symbols provided by space-frequency symbol mapper.

40. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by one or more processors, cause the processors to perform operations comprising:

25 encoding a plurality of symbol vectors by multiplying each of the symbol vectors by a complex field matrix to generate precoded symbol vectors;

grouping the precoded symbol vectors into a plurality of groups, each group having more than one of the precoded symbol vectors; and

mapping precoded symbols of the precoded symbol vectors to one of a plurality of subcarriers of a multicarrier communication channel and to one of a plurality of spatial

channels at least in part based on the precoded symbol's group and the precoded symbol's position within the group.

41. The machine-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the instructions, when further executed by one or more of the processors cause the processors to perform
- 5 operations further comprising:
- generating a serial symbol stream from an input serial bit stream; and
 - generating the plurality of parallel symbol vectors from the serial symbol stream, each of the symbol vectors having more than one symbol.

42. The machine-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the instructions, when
- 10 further executed by one or more of the processors cause the processors to perform operations further comprising performing inverse fast Fourier transform (IFFT) to generate signals for radio-frequency (RF) transmission on a corresponding one of the spatial channels from space-frequency mapped symbols generated by the mapping of the precoded symbols.

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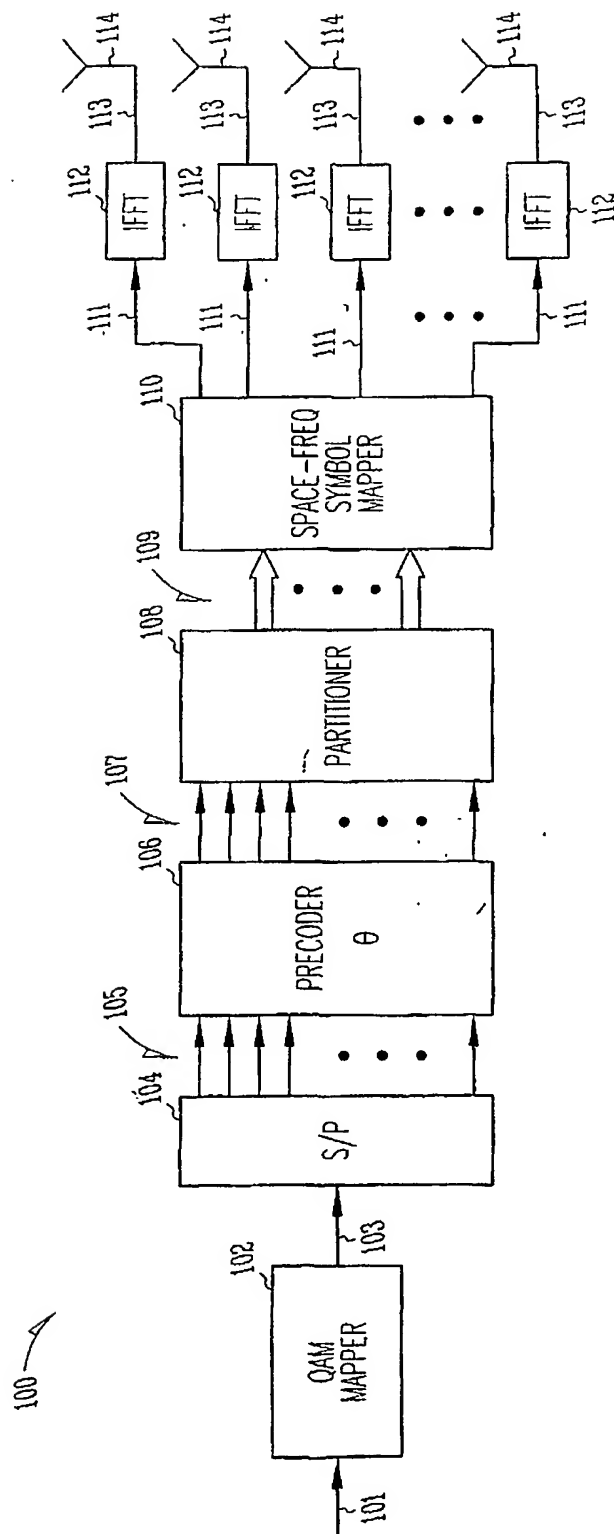


Fig. 1

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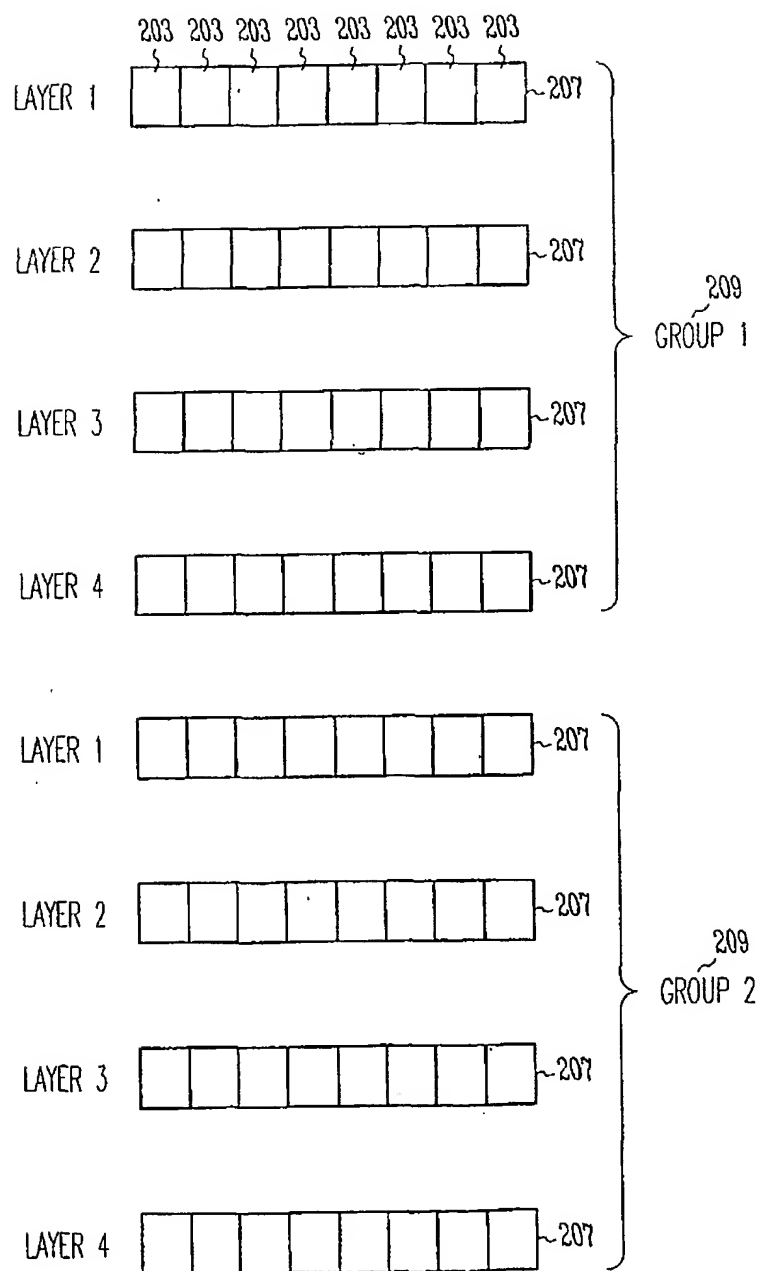


Fig. 2

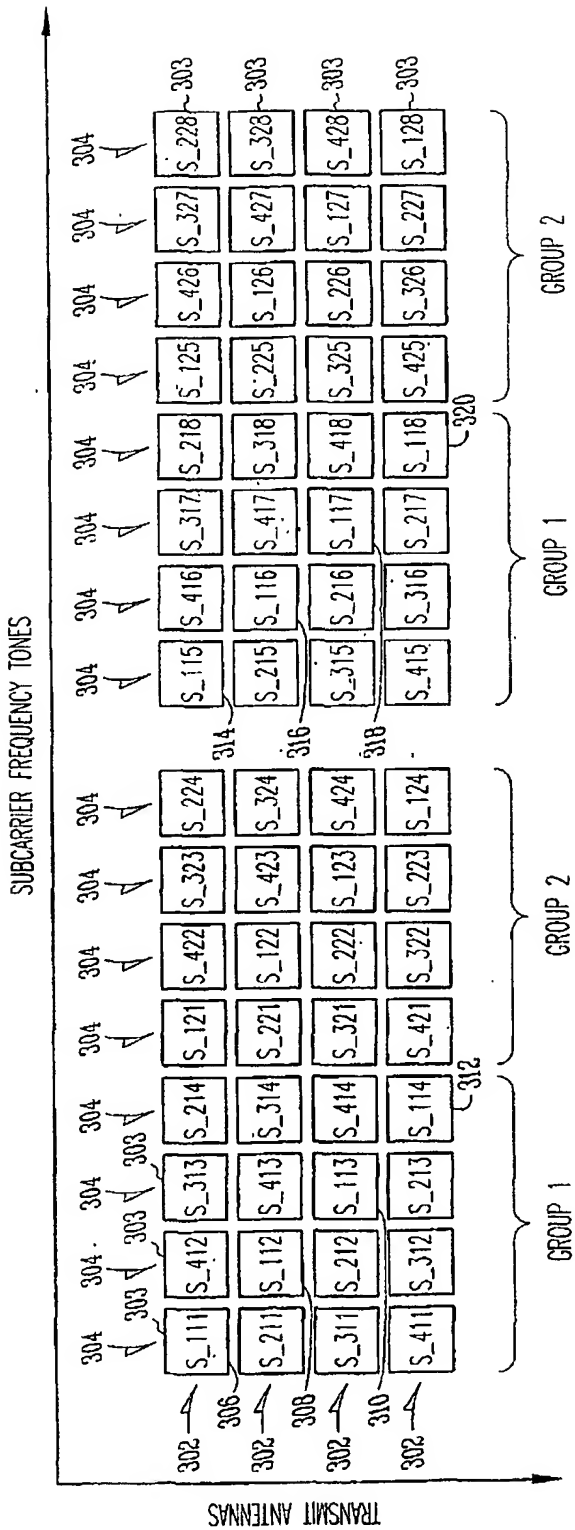


Fig. 3

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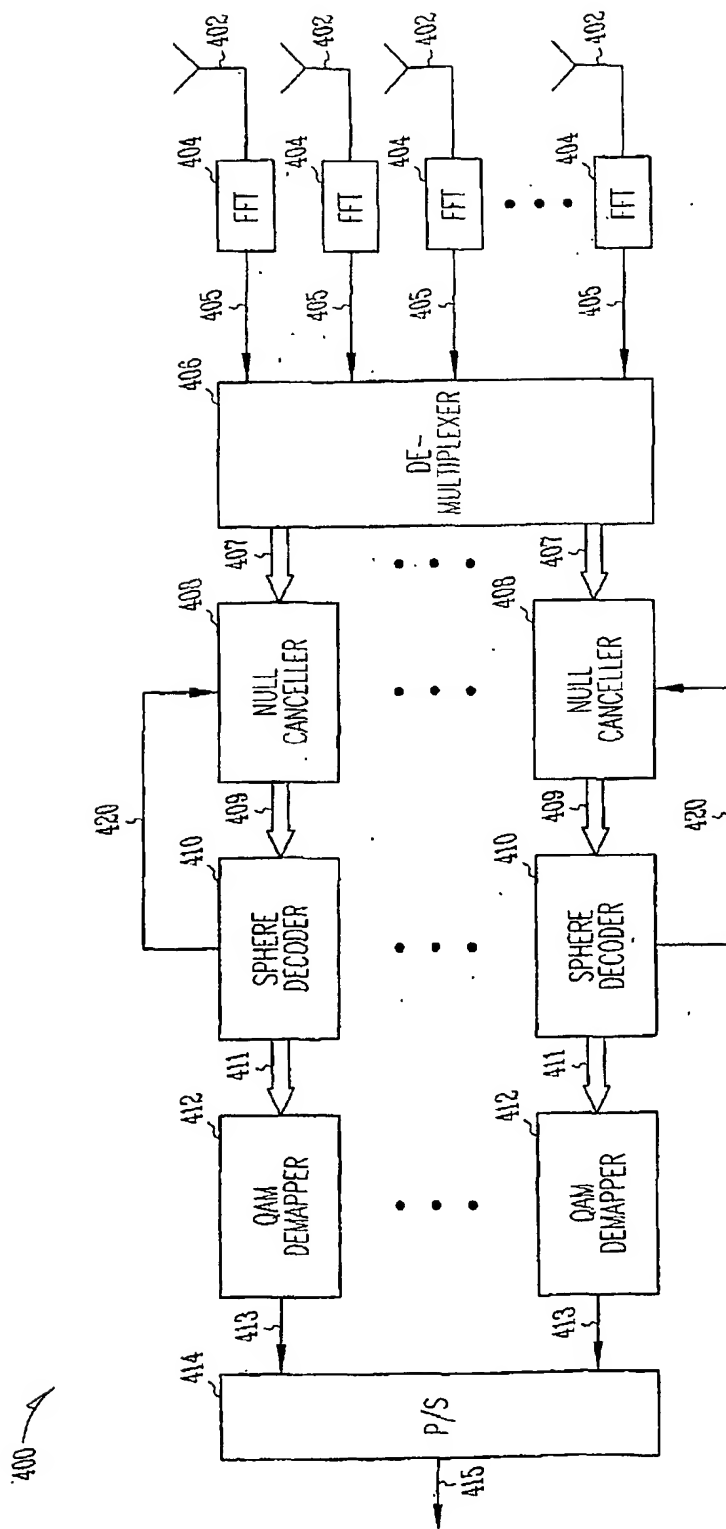


Fig. 4

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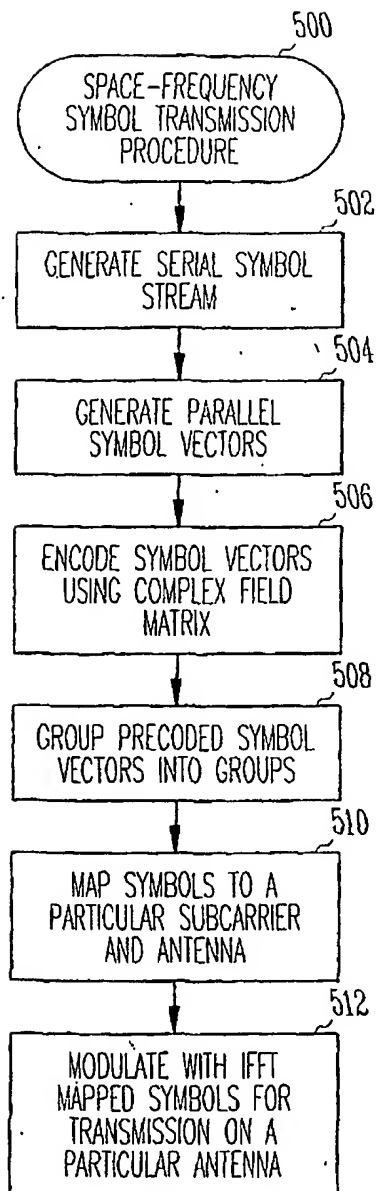


Fig. 5

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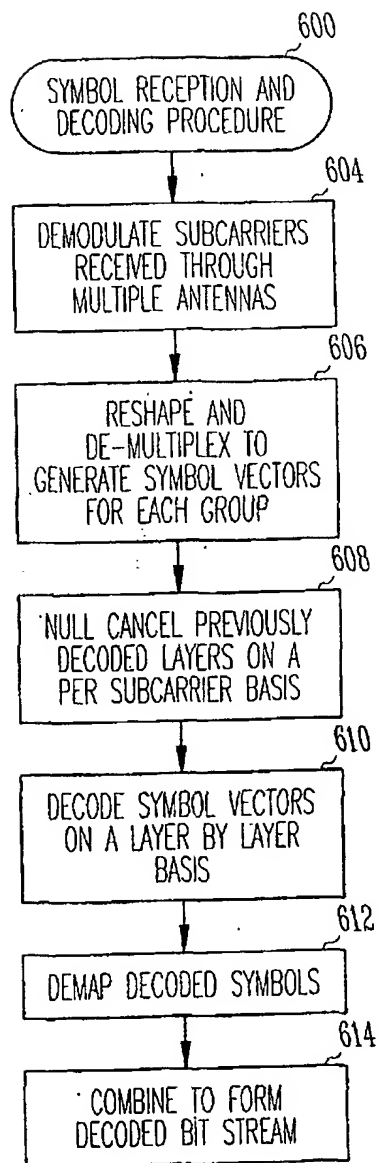


Fig. 6

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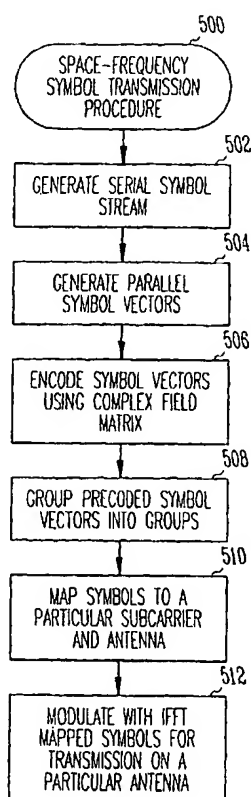
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- (72) Inventor: **SHAO, Lei**; 2579 Los Coches Avenue, San Jose, CA 95128 (US).
- (74) Agents: **STEFFEY, Charles, E.** et al.; Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.A., P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (US).
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **INTEL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MULTIPLE ANTENNA SYSTEMS AND METHODS USING HIGH-THROUGHPUT SPACE-FREQUENCY BLOCK CODES



(57) Abstract: A multicarrier transmitter uses high-throughput space-frequency block codes to map transmit symbols to a particular transmit antenna and a particular subcarrier of a multicarrier communication channel.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/029698

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC 7	H04L1/06	H04L1/00 H04L27/26 H04B7/06 H04B7/08
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC 7 H04L H04B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)		
EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC, IBM-TDB		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BÖLCSKEI H ET AL: "Space-Frequency Coded MIMO-OFDM with Variable Multiplexing-Diversity Tradeoff" IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS, 2003. ICC '03, vol. 4, 11 May 2003 (2003-05-11), pages 2837-2841, XP002318954 page 2837, left-hand column, lines 1-10 of Section I. page 2837, right-hand column, last 3 lines - page 2839, left-hand column	1,6-9, 11,18, 19,22, 27-30, 37,40
Y		2,3,10, 23,24, 31,32, 38,39, 41,42
----- -/-		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
20 May 2005		13 06. 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Baltersee, J

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PCT/US2004/029698

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	PAULRAJ A; NABAR R; GORE D: "Introduction to Space-Time Wireless Communications" May 2003 (2003-05), CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U.K., XP002318957 page 28 - page 29 page 124 - page 125 -----	2,3,10, 23,24, 31,32, 38,39, 41,42
A	MA X; GIANNAKIS G B: "Complex field coded MIMO systems: performance, rate, and trade-offs" WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS AND MOBILE COMPUTING, no. 2, October 2002 (2002-10), pages 693-717, XP002318955 the whole document -----	1-3, 6-11, 18-20, 22-24, 27-32, 37-42
A	WANG Z; GIANNAKIS G B: "Complex-Field Coding for OFDM Over Fading Wireless Channels" IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION THEORY, vol. 49, no. 2, March 2003 (2003-03), pages 707-720, XP002318956 the whole document -----	1-3, 6-11,18, 19, 22-24, 27-32, 37-42
T	LEI SHAO ET AL: "High rate space frequency block codes for next generation 802.11 WLANs" COMMUNICATIONS, 2004 IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PARIS, FRANCE 20-24 JUNE 2004, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, IEEE, vol. 5, 20 June 2004 (2004-06-20), pages 2995-2999, XP010712308 ISBN: 0-7803-8533-0 the whole document -----	1-3, 6-11,18, 19, 22-24, 27-32, 37-42

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2004/029698

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-5, 12-17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 33-36
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 4-5, 12-17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 33-36

1.1 According to claim 20, a space-frequency block coded received signals is decoded via a an iterative nulling process. The description, however, does not disclose an embodiment which falls under the scope of such a feature. In fact, the description only discloses embodiments where the space-frequency block code is decoded via a sphere decoder, and not a nulling process (see page 9, lines 19-25), and a combined nulling and cancelling process is used is used to cancel the interference from other layers (see page 9, line 18 - page 10, line 7). Therefore, claim 20 is not supported by the description as required by Article 6 PCT. Furthermore, even if the features of claim 20 were incorporated into the description to overcome that objection, the resulting description would not fulfill the requirement of sufficiency of disclosure (Article 5 PCT), since it is not known by the skilled person how a space-frequency block code may be decoded via iterative nulling.

1.2 According to claims 12, 13, 21, and 33, a demultiplexer generates groups of symbol vectors by combining corresponding subcarrier frequency components of received symbols. The description on page 9, lines 6-7 clarifies in that respect that symbol components from different subcarriers are meant. Firstly, the demultiplexer cannot generate groups of symbols, because some form of detection or decoding is required first to generate symbol estimates from the received signal. Secondly, for each subcarrier, the signal at each receive antenna is the superposition of all the transmit signals of the same subcarrier. Therefore, it is entirely unclear to the person skilled in the art how grouping the signals from different subcarriers may form a basis for a null-cancelling operation which presumably would serve to separate each spatially multiplexed subcarrier. The description does not contain any further clarifying information, either. Consequently, a skilled person would not know how to carry out demultiplexing as claimed in said claims without exercising inventive skill.

1.3 Furthermore, the person skilled in the art is familiar with null-cancellation from BLAST detection in multiantenna systems. In the well known D-BLAST system, for example, diagonal space-time symbol mapping is used, which is somewhat similar to the diagonal space-frequency symbol mapping proposed in Figure 3 of the present application. In such a system, however, not all the positions of the space-time code matrix are used in order to enable optimal decoding (see, for example PAULRAJ A; NABAR R; GORE D: "Introduction to Space-Time Wireless Communications" May 2003 (2003-05), CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U.K. page 125). The space-frequency code matrix of Figure 3, however, does not have such wastage. Since the description does not disclose any details of the null-canceller which go beyond well known general features, it is highly questionable if the skilled person is capable of carrying out the claimed null-cancellation for a code matrix that is constructed according to Figure 3 without exercising inventive skill.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1.4 A linear-square precoder such as claimed in claims 4, 25 is not a concept which is known to a person skilled in the art. Furthermore, the description does not contain sufficient information such that a skilled person could carry out a linear-square precoder without exercising inventive skill.

1.5 Due to the reasons outlined under points 1.2 - 1.4 it is concluded that the application does not meet the requirements of Article 5 PCT in that it is not sufficiently disclosed to be carried out by a skilled person.

1.7 Due to the above objections, it is concluded in accordance with Art. 17(2)(a)(ii) PCT that the description and the claims fail to comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that a meaningful search could not be carried out for claims 4 - 5, 12 - 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 33 - 36.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1 - 3, 6, 10, 11, 18, 19, 22- 24, 27, 31, 32, 37- 42

Generation of parallel symbol vectors

2. claims: 7-9, 28-30

Partitioning of parallel symbol vectors into groups
